

TO: Students Participating in Earth Sciences Field Trips
FROM: Chairperson of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department
SUBJECT: Field Trip Policies and Liability Waiver
FIELD TRIP: Field trips sponsored by the Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

- (1) All students participating in field trips taught by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences should be aware that there is always an element of risk involved in such trips. These risks involve travel by vehicles, including commercial, state, and private vehicles, and in certain cases travel by canoes and rafts, walking as pedestrians on or near roadways, as well as strenuous hiking in mountainous terrains which are sometimes in remote areas. Instructors will use all reasonable precautions and students need to exercise prudent behavior during field trips, but even then there exists the possibility of an accident. Students need to assess their own physical abilities and not exceed their capabilities. Students must be alert and aware of possible risks and dangers during field trips.
- (2) All drivers of either private, leased, or state vehicles must have valid driver's licenses. All drivers of private vehicles must have current insurance coverage as required by Colorado law.

Students should be aware of the State of Colorado liability insurance situation as follows:

Use of Personal Vehicle - Auto Liability

When an employee or student uses their personal vehicle for University business or to transport other students on authorized field trips, the student's or employee's personal automobile policy will provide the primary coverage if an accident occurs.

If the limits of the policy are not sufficient to cover the damages, the State self-insured liability coverage may be effective, but as extended coverage only. This extended coverage is in force only when the vehicle is being used for business purposes and not when in use for personal reasons.

Colorado no longer requires that medical bills that result from an accident be paid from each driver's insurance immediately regardless of fault (formerly "Personal Injury Protection"). Insurance companies now operate on the basis of legal liability for negligence, which is a more complex process especially when negligence is disputed or shared. Injured parties must now either pay the bills themselves or submit them to their own health insurance company. Companies that provide benefits under such circumstances typically require the injured party to agree that the health insurance company will be reimbursed from any judgment or settlement against a negligent driver.

- (3) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on any field trip guided, sponsored or accompanied by Dr. U.R. Kackstaetter. The use of illegal drugs is prohibited on field trips. Because of possible fire danger, smoking is prohibited at any time during the field trip. Students found in violation of these restrictions must be prepared to be removed from the field trip according to (8) below.
- (4) No firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed on field trips.
- (5) No pets, children, family, or friends are allowed on field trips except with permission of instructor. All such persons must sign the same liability waiver.
- (6) Students with medical problems, including but not limited to asthma and allergies, **must** consult with instructor prior to participating in field trips. Such students **must** have appropriate medications with them during the field trip. In case of a medical emergency during the field trip, such students must be prepared to pay for expenses incurred for their evacuation. The purchase of Colorado game or hikers licenses may provide for emergency medical evacuation.
- (7) Carpooling students are expected to assist the driver in covering gasoline expenses.
- (8) Students who violate any local, state, or federal statutes or who violate any of the field trip policies or stipulations or who fail to conform to directives from the instructor may be immediately dismissed from the field trip. Alternate transportation for early dismissal is the financial responsibility of the dismissed student. They may also be subject to a failing grade in the course, be required to withdraw from the course, and be subject to disciplinary action by the University.
- (9) All participants **MUST SIGN** the following **LIABILITY WAIVER (over)**.

In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this activity, I, the undersigned hereby release and hold harmless: the Trustees of the Metropolitan State University of Denver, the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department, and respective employees, from all claims, losses, damages, or expenses because of property damage or personal or bodily injury incurred or caused by me during or in conjunction with the above mentioned activity. In filling out this form, I acknowledge that I fully understand the risk that is inherent to off-campus activities. Furthermore, I have fully read and understand the department policies and my liability and do accept the restrictions.

Please mark with an "x" in the x^{tend}-column if you are planning on staying for the extended fieldtrip, being back at 6 or 7pm instead of 3ish!

X ^{tend}	Print Name	Sign	Date	X ^{tend}	Print Name	Sign	Date	
1.				38.				
2.				39.				
3.				40.				
4.				41.				
5.				42.				
6.				43.				
7.				44.				
8.				45.				
9.				46.				
10.				47.				
11.				48.				
12.				49.				
13.				50.				
14.				51.				
15.				52.				
16.				53.				
17.				54.				
18.				55.				
19.				56.				
20.				57.				
21.				58.				
22.				59.				
23.				60.				
24.				61.				
25.				62.				
26.				63.				
27.				64.				
28.				65.				
29.				Guests & Visitors				
30.				A.				
31.				B.				
32.				C.				
33.				D.				
34.				E.				
35.				F.				
36.				G.				
37.				H.				